

Helpful Hint for You Dry Fly Fisher-persons



Dry fly fishing requires flies to stay afloat throughout the timeframe of a hatch or for numerous casts to potential targets on a stream or lake.

Various floatants are available to help keep flies afloat including silicone based paste (Gink, Aquel), permanent liquid coatings (Water Shed), desiccant crystals (Shimazaki Dry Shake & others), hydrophobic powder (Frog Fanny, Docs DryDust). Moreover, claims are made that coating the fly with a concoction of gasoline and paraffin wax will keep a fly floating for very long periods of time. However, gasoline and other chemical treatments are candidates for leaving an odor on the fly that trout would likely turn down due to their keen ability to smell.

My experience with keeping moisture out of underground splices demonstrates that hydrophobic powder is the most effective way to eliminate moisture around anything, short of a lead covering. Fly fisherman typically fish a dry fly until it gets wet and refuses to float. At that point the fly must be dried and then treated again with a floatant to provide buoyancy. The quickest way to dry the fly is to shake it in a desiccant that soaks up the moisture. Following that the application of a hydrophobic powder brushed on the fly will provide a very effective barrier to moisture. This combination of materials will cost you about \$18.00.

Now the problem that is often encountered with the hydrophobic powder is that the slightest wind will blow the powder all over the place and result in more powder liberated to surroundings than on to the fly. A very effective solution for this is to prepare a mixture of 30% hydrophobic powder and 70% desiccant crystals in the shaker bottle and apply both to the fly simultaneously. Some compounds similar to this are on the market but they are also rather costly.

If you are interested in making up bottles of this mixture and saving money at the same time, you can do that by purchasing the materials on line at <http://compare.ebay.com/like/170776461160?var=lv<yp=AllFixedPrice>. However, you will have to buy enough bulk material that in turn will make a quantity that will last you and your family for their entire fishing career. **The next best approach would be to win a bottle of AFFS custom dry fly floatant at the next UCCTU raffle.**

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DRY FLY DESICCANT & FLOATANT

